

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, SP
SUBJECT: LOS-SPANISH COMMENTS ON JANUARY 18 ADDRESS BY
AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

REF: STATE 12946

1. EMBOFF JANUARY 20 DELIVERED COPY OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S SPEECH TO AMBASSADOR IBANEZ, HEAD OF SPANISH LOS DELEGATION. IBANEZ EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION AND SAID HE WOULD STUDY IT WITH CARE PRIOR TO FEBRUARY MEETING. WITH REGARD LATTER, IBANEZ WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FOR BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, IF TIME PERMITS.

2. WITH REGARD MAJOR ISSUE OF DEEP SEABED MINING, IBANEZ SAID THAT SPAIN HAS GENERALLY AGREED COMPLETELY WITH US POSITION. SINCE SPAIN IS SOMEWHAT OF AN "IN-BETWEEN" COUNTRY WITH RESPECT TO MAJOR NATIONS (US, EEC, USSR, JAPAN AND LDC'S) ON ISSUE, AS DESCRIBED BY IBANEZ, HE EXPRESSED

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HOPE THAT SPAIN WILL RECEIVE AT LEAST EQUAL TREATMENT AS LDC'S. FURTHER IBANEZ SAID SPANISH FEEL THAT STRONG JURIDICIAL SYSTEM IS ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTINUED FUNCTIONING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY.

3. IBANEZ SAID HE GATHERED FROM BRIEF LOOK AT TEXT OF SPEECH AND COMMENTS BY EMBOFF THAT US CONSIDERS ISSUES

OTHER THAN SEABED MINING TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. ACCORDING IBANEZ SPANISH VIEW SEVERAL OTHER ISSUES AS OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE AND AS BEING ABOUT AS FAR FROM RESOLUTION. THREE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS ARE CONTINUED ACCESS TO ECONOMIC ZONE RESOURCES FOR DISTANT FISHING FLEETS SIMILAR TO PROVISION FOR LAND LOCKED/GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED NATIONS, DELIMITATION OF SEA BOUNDARIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH LESS THAN 400 NAUTICAL MILES SEPARATION, AND STRAITS ISSUE.

4. IBANEZ STRESSED HISTORICAL NATURE OF SPANISH FISHING, WHICH HAS NEVER REACHED "INDUSTRIAL" STAGE OF SOME COUNTRIES' FLEETS (SOVIETS AND JAPANESE) AND CLAIMED SPANISH PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON SOME FORM OF CONTINUED ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL FISHING GROUNDS. WITH REGARD BOUNDARY DELIMITATION, IBANEZ VOICED NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF "OBJECTIVE CRITERIA" FOR SETTING BOUNDARY, SINCE WITHOUT SUCH AND CLEAR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM SPANISH BELIEVE THIS IS FIRST PLACE "HOT POINTS" WOULD ARISE IF PRESENT PROVISIONS ON DELIMITATION INCLUDED IN FINAL TREATY. SPANISH ARE CONCERNED BOTH FROM ECONOMIC AND SECURITY VIEWPOINTS, AND IBANEZ SAID THAT SPANISH MILITARY WOULD NOT SUPPORT TREATY UNLESS THEY SATISFIED WITH SECURITY ASPECTS OF BOUNDARY DELIMITATION.

5. STRAITS ISSUE WAS LISTED AS PERHAPS NUMBER ONE IN IMPORTANCE TO SPANISH BY IBANEZ. ACCORDING TO HIM, PRESENT TEXT ON STRAITS IN ICNT WAS DEVELOPED DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOURTH LOS SESSION IN GENEVA IN 1975-76 BY GROUP PRIMARILY AS DICTATED BY UK. GROUP DID NOT INCLUDE SPAIN OR MOROCCO NOR DID THESE TWO IMPORTANT STRAITS NATIONS HAVE INPUT TO TEXT. IBANEZ CLAIMED THAT AS HISTORICAL MARITIME NATION SPAIN IS FULLY COMMITTED TO FREEDOM OF THE SEAS. HOWEVER, SPANISH VIEW PRESENT TEXT OF ICNT ON STRAITS AS BASIC INFRINGEMENT OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND AS SUCH UNACCEPTABLE. IBANEZ SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT US, SPAIN AND MOROCCO COULD WORK OUT SUITABLE TEXT WHICH WOULD SATISFY BOTH NEEDS IN SHORT TIME, AND SINCE MOST OTHER STATES (HE MENTIONED MONGOLIA AND SWITZERLAND) TAKE LITTLE INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE THERE SHOULD BE LITTLE OPPOSITION TO FINAL VERSION. IBANEZ SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT SPANISH CORTES WOULD NEVER RATIFY TREATY WITH STRAITS PROVISIONS AS PRESENTLY CONSTRUCTED.

6. COMMENT/ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH IBANEZ DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC", SPANISH APPEAR TO VIEW ICNT AS LESS ACCEPTABLE IN PRESENT FORM THAN US DOES, OR AT LEAST AS HAVING MORE AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK. IBANEZ SAID HE HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH HIS RELATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON DURING PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND LOOKS

FORWARD TO THE FEBRUARY SESSION IN NEW YORK. EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S
SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 6 WOULD PERMIT MEETING WITH IBANEZ
AND, IF SO, WHAT TIME WOULD BE CONVENIENT. STABLER

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